

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A computer-implemented method of generating an information  
2 disclosure statement comprising:  
3                   receiving a load signal transmitted from a client system to a remote server  
4 system;  
5                   loading an electronic document that contains reference information to be  
6 disclosed to a patent office from a first database external to the remote server system to a  
7 second database on the remote server system, the reference information including IDS  
8 information;  
9                   associating the electronic document with one or more patent cases on the  
10 remote server system; and  
11                   receiving a create signal from the client system on the remote server system,  
12 the remote server system associating the IDS information with an electronic invention  
13 disclosure statement for a first patent case of the one or more patent cases in response to the  
14 create signal.

1                   2.     The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document includes a  
2 plurality of fields for storing the IDS information, and wherein, in response to the create  
3 signal, the remote server system extracts the IDS information from each of the plurality of  
4 fields and stores the IDS information in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic  
5 information disclosure statement.

1                   3.     The method of claim 1 wherein associating the electronic document  
2 with one or more patent documents comprises:  
3                   storing a reference link to the electronic documents in a reference table;  
4                   storing the one or more patent cases in a case number table; and  
5                   linking each of the one or more patent cases to the reference link in the  
6 reference table.

1                   4.     The method of claim 1 wherein associating the IDS information  
2 includes storing the IDS information in the electronic information disclosure statement.

1                   5.     The method of claim 1 further comprising extracting IDS information  
2 from the reference information in response to the create signal.

1                   6.       The method of claim 5 wherein the IDS information is extracted from  
2 the reference information automatically in response to the signal.

1                   7        The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a create prompt to  
2 the user for generating the create signal.

1                   8.       The method of claim 7 wherein the create prompt comprises an  
2 electronic button.

1                   9.       The method of claim 1 wherein the first database is coupled to the  
2 remote server system over a computer network.

1                   10.      The method of claim 1 further comprising providing access to the  
2 electronic information disclosure statement to multiple users over a network.

1                   11.      The method of claim 1 further comprising electronically transmitting  
2 the electronic information disclosure statement to a patent office.

1                   12.      The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2                   receiving a second signal indicating that a patent application corresponding to  
3 the electronic information disclosure statement is being electronically filed in a patent office;  
4 and

5                   electronically transmitting the electronic information disclosure statement to  
6 the patent office contemporaneously with the patent application.

1                   13.      The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an  
2 electronic version of a United States Patent.

1                   14.      The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an  
2 electronic version of a foreign patent document.

1                   15.      The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an  
2 electronic version of a publication.

1                   16.      A computer-implemented method of generating an information  
2 disclosure statement comprising:

receiving a load signal transmitted from a client system to a remote server system;  
loading one or more electronic documents that contain reference information to be disclosed to a patent office into a database under control of a first server system, the electronic documents being loaded from a source external to the first server system and the reference information including IDS information;  
storing one or more reference links to the one or more electronic documents in a reference table;  
linking a first case in a case table to the one or more reference links; and  
receiving a signal from the client system on the first server system, the first server system associating the IDS information for each of the one or more electronic documents with an electronic invention disclosure statement for the first case in response to the signal.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein each of the electronic documents includes a plurality of fields for storing the IDS information, and wherein, in response to receiving the signal, the first server system extracts the IDS information from each of the plurality of fields and stores the IDS information in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic information disclosure statement.

18. The method of claim 16 further comprising:  
storing one or more cited reference links to one or more of the electronic documents in a cited references table, the cited reference links being associated with electronic documents that have been cited to a patent office,  
wherein associating the IDS information comprises associating the IDS information for each of the one or more electronic documents that have reference links in the reference table but do not have cited reference links in the cited reference table with an electronic invention disclosure statement for the first case in response to the signal.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the one or more electronic documents is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

20. The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the one or more electronic documents is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

1                    21.     The method of claim 16 wherein at least one of the one or more  
2     electronic documents is an electronic version of a publication.